

MINUTES
OF THE
TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
HARMONY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH
PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH,

Tuscaloosa County, Ala.,

From the 13th to the 15th of October, 1888.

The next session will be held with Enterprise Church,
commencing on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath
in October, 1889.



MINUTES.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1888.

1. The Delegates from the various Churches composing the Twelfth Annual Session of the Harmony Baptist Association, convened with the Pleasant Grove church this day, at 11 o'clock. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder W. W. Martin, from Joshua, 24th chapter, 15th verse, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the Gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the floods, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land ye dwell; but for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

After a recess of one hour, during which a most ample dinner was served, the delegates assembled in the meeting-house, and the Association was called to order by our former Moderator, Rev. W. W. Martin, who read a portion of Scripture and offered prayer.

2. The Moderator then called the roll of the churches, and the Delegates came forward, bearing their respective letters of representation, and voted for moderator of the present session, which resulted in the choice of Rev. W. W. Martin. By request, Revs. R. S. Jones and W. S. Henderson came forward and read the letters.

3. List of the Churches with names of Delegates from each. (Names of Ministers in small capitals):

FIRST DISTRICT.

Mount Olive—James N. Hayes.

Cedar Grove—D. H. Lewis, R. Furgerson.

Siloam—Letter. No Delegate.

Enon—Rev. R. S. JONES.

Hephzibah—M. J. Parsons, S. W. Hansmer, I. F. Herring, S. Y. Herring, I. N. Armstrong.

Mt. Carmel—C. H. Rich, J. P. Green, T. R. Thrasher.

Enterprise—Jackson Kizzier, Henry Kyzer, John Daily, Rev. W. W. MARTIN

Pleasant Grove—E. D. Herring, W. A. Murry, J. R. Moses, C. C. Rogers, E. A. F. Herring.

Center Grove—H. F. Furgerson, D. W. Marse.

Roup's Valley—T. L. Shamblin, E. P. Blanchet, John Burgan.

4. The Moderator appointed the following Committee to serve during the present Session :

Preaching—Jack Kizziar, S. W. Hausmer, with the Deacons of Pleasant Grove Church.

Nominations—M. J. Parsons, D. H. Lewis, S. B. Hobson.

Finance—J. P. Green, I. F. Herring, Jack Kizziar.

Temperance—Rev. R. S. Jones, W. A. Murry, John Daily.

Sunday Schools—E. D. Herring, D. H. Lewis, J. B. Hobson.

H. & F. Foreign Missions—Rev. R. S. Jones, W. A. Murry, J. B. Hobson.

4. The door was opened for new or unassociated churches to join the Association, when Brethren E. P. Blanchet, T. L. Shamblin, and John Burgan, came forward bearing a Petitionary Letter from Roup's Valley Church, and by a motion was received.

5. Called for Correspondence :

Central Liberty—G. W. Townsend, S. C. Hubbard, with Letter.

Mud Creek—Rev. B. S. Thompson.

Coosa River—Rev. W. S. Henderson.

Sulphur Springs—Rev. R. H. Blake.

Canaan—Rev. James Hogan.

Returned Correspondence :

Mulberry—Rev. R. S. Jones, D. H. Lewis.

Tuscaloosa—Rev. W. W. Martin, W. A. Murry, W. P. Keeton.

Cahaba—Rev. R. S. Jones.

Mud Creek—E. D. Herring, S. Y. Herring.

Canaan—Rev. W. W. Martin, Rev. R. S. Jones, brethren E. D. Herring, A. J. Flemming.

Central Liberty—Rev. R. H. Jones, brethren D. H. Lewis, J. P. Green, J. B. Hobson.

6. RESOLVED, That the Harmony Association advise any and every member in the bounds of this Association who shall be in full fellowship and in order and of good report, who may by chance or otherwise be at a sister Association, shall present themselves as corresponding messengers and act with as much freedom and deliberation as if appointed by this body. Adopted.

7. The Committee on Preaching reported:—Preaching at candle light by Rev. R. H. Blake. Prayer meeting to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, conducted by Brother D. H. Lewis. Rev. W. S. Henderson to preach a Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock.

The Association then adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning. Prayer by Rev. R. S. Jones.

SABBATH, OCTOBER, 14.

The appointments announced by the Committee on Preaching were attended to as follows: Rev. R. H. Blake preached at candle light, from Acts, 12 chapter, latter clause of the 7 verse, "Rise up quickly." Brother D. H. Lewis conducted prayer meeting at 9 o'clock, during which time we had some very interesting Sabbath School talks. Rev. W. S. Henderson preached a Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock, from Luke the 24 chapter, 46 and 47 verses, "And said unto them, thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer; and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem." After which a collection was taken up for Foreign Missions amounting to \$7.55. Rev. B. S. Thompson preached at 3 o'clock P.M. from Matthew 12 chapter, 14 verse, "Then the Pharisees went out and held a counsel against him how they might destroy him." Rev. R. S. Jones preached at candle light from Revelation 21 chapter, 9 verse, "And there came unto me one of the seven Angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues and talked with me saying, come hither. I will shew thee the Bride, the Lamb's wife."

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15.

8. Pursuant to adjournment, the Association met and was opened with prayer by Rev. J. G. Lowery.

9. Called the roll, absentees noted.

10. The Committee on Nominations reported:

We recommend the next Session of this Association to be held with Enterprise Church, Tuscaloosa County, Ala., one mile north of Clements Station, on the Center Road, commencing on Saturday, before the 2nd Sabbath in October, 1889. Rev. R. S. Jones to preach the Introductory Sermon, Rev. W. W. Martin, Alternate; Rev. N. H. Williams to preach a Missionary Sermon on Sunday at 11 o'clock.

M. J. PARSONS, Chairman.

11. The Committee on Finance reported:

For Minutes,	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 14 35
Association purposes,	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 00
Foreign Missions sent up by Pleasant Grove, Hephzibah and Enterprise Churches,	-	-	-	-	-	-	21 00
Collection on Sunday,	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 55
Total,	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 48 00

JACK KIZZAR, Chairman.

12. The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported :

The subjects of Sabbath Schools has become a great question before the christian world, the fruits we have gathered from Sabbath School work are apparent to all. Where Sabbath Schools are kept up, a live church is sure to be the result. Peace, harmony, brotherly love, and ingathering of souls to Christ, are sure to follow. The Bible is the Book of God, given to man to teach him the way of life. It is our bounden duty to teach it to our children, and to impress upon their young and tender minds the important truths it contains, and thereby aid them in learning the way of life; and in the performance of this duty not only do.

J. B. HOBSON, Chairman.

13. By motion adjourned for preaching. Prayer by Rev. R. S. Jones.

Rev. J. G. Lowery preached at 11 o'clock from Isaiah 53 chapter, first clause 11 verse, "He shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied."

14. One o'clock, pursuant to adjournment, the Association met and was opened with prayer by Rev. B. S. Thompson.

15. The Committee on Home, State, and Foreign Missions reported :

It is one of the great commands of our God to go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature, and we recommend faithful obedience on the part of every one, and that every effort may be in the right direction; and that our God will accompany every branch of the work. Be faithful and demand faithfulness.

REV. R. S. JONES, Chairman.

16. The Committee on Temperance reported :

We are glad to see the progress of this cause, but sorry it is not better and more progressive, and would recommend every member of our Association to do everything in their power to promote the cause, and put an end to all blind tigers.

W. A. MURRY, Chairman.

17. Report of the First District :

The Union Meeting of the First District will be held with the Cedar Grove Church, commencing on Friday before the second Sabbath in September, 1889. Rev. N. H. Williams to preach the Introductory Sermon; Rev. W. W. Martin, Alternate. Query for Friday: "What is the power of the Holy Spirit of God?" opened by Brother W. B. Keeton. Query for Saturday morning: "Have we a Scriptural right to have disunion in our Churches who refuse public duties in the Churches?" opened by E. D. Herrin. Query for Saturday evening: "Has a Church a Scriptural right to prefer a charge against a member or members where there is a general report against them by the Church, and the report believed to be true, yet no proof attainable?" opened by D. H. Lewis.

After singing, taking the parting hand, and prayer by Brother W. A. Murry, the Association adjourned, to meet with Enterprise Church, on Saturday, before the second Sabbath in October, 1889.

W. W. MARTIN,

JAMES N. HAYES, Stated Clerk.

Moderator.

NOTE.—The Association and the visitors in attendance were entertained by the Church and citizens of the neighborhood in their usual ample and hospitable manner.—CLERK.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, on producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of Harmony Baptist Association, which shall have the right to enact and carry out Missionary purposes in all their bearing, yet so as that the holding shall not be a bar to fellowship.

2 The Association shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union or infringe any of their internal rights; but shall merely be considered an advisory counsel, in all matters relative to their internal concerns; nevertheless, it becomes necessary in some cases to have a uniform rule of procedure, namely: if one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction; if she fail of success, she shall call the aid of two or more churches in our union to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if final satisfaction in the opinion of the helps thus called be not obtained, the aggrieved may bring the case before the Association, which shall be taken up and decided upon according to its merits. If a serious difference should arise in an individual church, which upon due labor, cannot be reconciled, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches to assist in the work, and if a reconciliation be not effected, the helps so called, or the church, may bring the case before the Association to be acted on according to its merits; but the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued according to the economy of the church discipline, found in the 18th chapter of the gospel of St. Matthew, and other parts of the Scriptures, which define the nature of offences, and the manner of bringing offenders to trial.

3. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association written communications, specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, baptised, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and deceased, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

4. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner: each church shall be entitled to send five delegates, and no more. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

5. New churches may be admitted into our union by delegates bearing petitionary letters. If upon due examination they are found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving the delegates the right hand in token of christian fellowship.

6. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

7. At every session of the Association, a Moderator shall be appointed by and from the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules are strictly observed and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Stated Clerk shall be appointed, who shall continue in office until the Association shall elect his successor, and whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings, and to keep a regular file of the printed minutes of every session of this body, which he is to present to the view of the Association annually. An assistant clerk may be elected each year if necessary.

8. The Association shall have power to exclude from the union any church that may violate the constitution, or depart from the orthodox principles of the constitution.

9. The Association shall furnish the Minutes of every session to the churches making contributions for that purpose.

10. Every query sent by a particular church must be included in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile it, but failed. In such a case the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

11. Queries which immediately concern the general union of the churches, sent by a particular church, or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided on as soon as practicable.

12. Any church in our union having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work; and all presbyteries, in the ordaining of ministers or deacons, or the constituting of churches, shall be governed by the Abstracts of Faith adopted by this Association.

13. The Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all money thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their delegates and paid over to the committee on finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order; and make, at every session, a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

14. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

15. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected if necessary and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

16. The Association shall in all cases (except to amend the constitution) be governed by a majority of the members present.

17. Amendments to this constitution may be made at any session of the Association, when two-thirds of its members present shall deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost. 2. We believe that the Scriptures comprising the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice. 3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. 5. We believe in man's incapability, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost. 8. We believe that the saints shall be preserved in grace and never fall finally away. 9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by immersion is the Apostolic mode. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the General Judgment and that the felicity of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal. 11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the gospel, but one who is regularly baptized, called and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery. 12. We believe that none but regularly baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

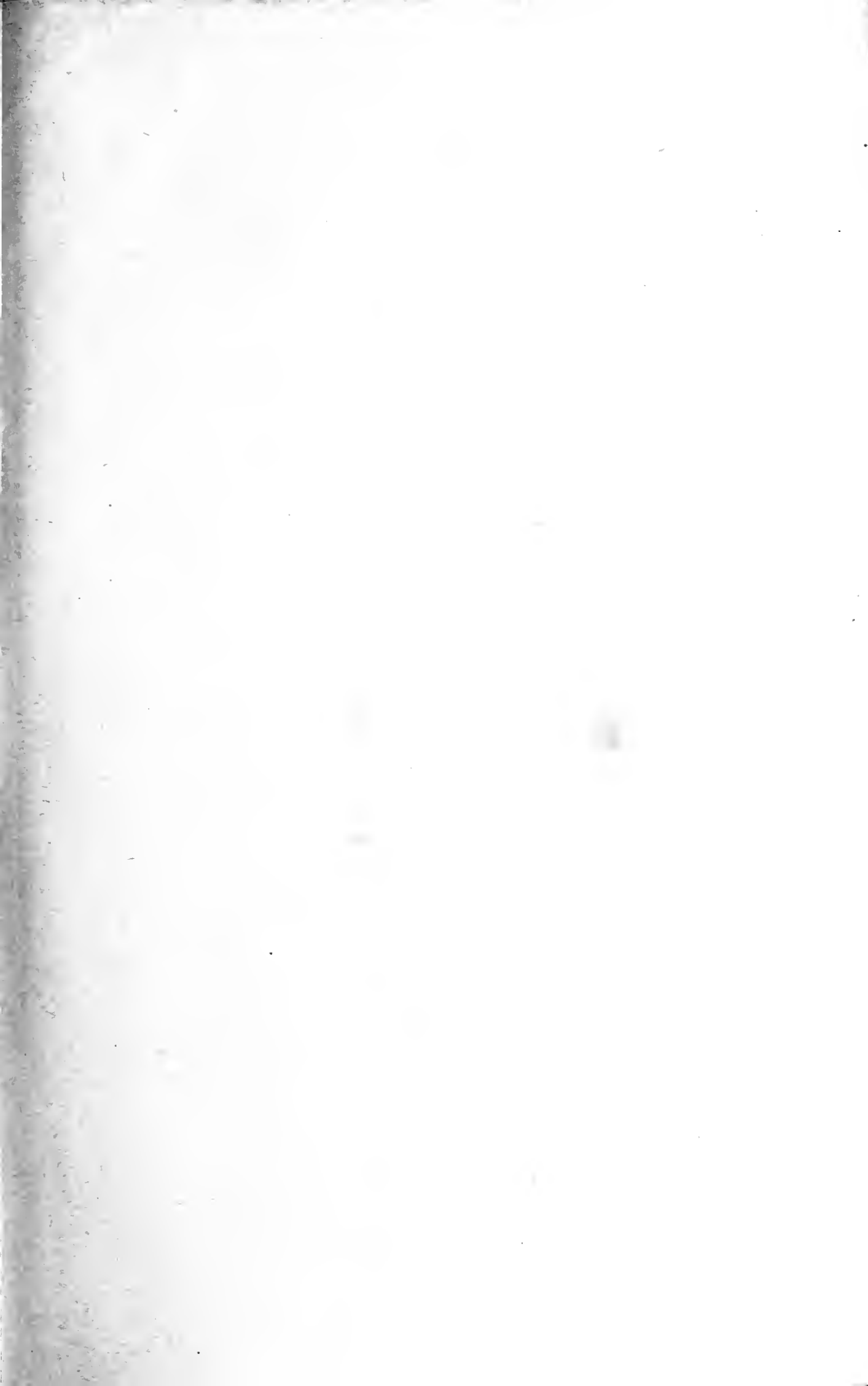
ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer. 2. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call to order at any time. 3. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time. 4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and on obtaining permission, proceed. 5. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person or otherwise. 6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him

who made it. 7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered. 8. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject in such mode as he may determine. 9. The Moderator shall announce the decision to the body. 10. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain permission of the Moderator. 11. No member shall speak more than twice to the same proposition without permission of the Association, nor more than once till every member wishing to speak shall have spoken; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debates have been carried through. 12. The appellation of brother shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another. 13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct. 14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking. 15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but he shall not vote on any question, unless the Association be equally divided. 16. Any member violating the rules, shall be reprovod by the Moderator at his discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*To all sister Baptist Associations with whom we may correspond:—*DEAR BRETHREN:—We have just closed our Twelfth Annual Session in which we are thankful to the great Moderator for the union that prevailed during our session. Dear brethren, we continue our correspondence with you by this letter and our appointed delegates. Dear brethren, we ask an interest in your prayers, and may the Great Head of the Church preside over your and our Association and lead us all in the ways of truth is our prayer. Our next session will be held with Enterprise Church, one mile north of Clements Station, on Center Road, on Saturday, before the second Sabbath in October, 1889.

JAMES N. HAYES, Clerk.



STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.										CHURCH CLERK.	CLERK'S POST-OFFICE.					
	Baptized.	Rec. by Letter	Restored	Dismissed	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	Minute Fund.	Association Fund.	Foreign Missions.			Pastor's Salary.	Date of Constitution.	Monthly M'tgs		
Mount Olive.....	10	4	2	1	1	1	48	1 50	50		1858	4	G. B. Whatley.	Cottendale	J. E. Colbert.	Coaling	
Cedar Grove.....	10	4	3	10	1	5	88	1 75	1 00		1836	3	W. G. Hubbard.	Scottsville	John N. Hayes.	Clements	
Siloam.....	1	3	1	3	1	1	23	1 00	50		1844	1	D. C. Culbreth.	Vance's	J. H. Mize	Scottsville	
Enon.....	15	2	1	3	1	1	78	1 00	50		1819	3	S. M. Adams	Six Mile	F. M. Arnold	Six Mile	
Hephzibah.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	87	2 00	50	6 10	100 00	1847	4	W. W. Martin	Clements	A. C. Riley	Woodstock
Mount Carmel.....	10	3	1	1	1	1	101	2 35	50	10 00	1869	1	W. G. Hubbard	Scottsville	B. J. Thrasher.	Blockton	
Enterprise.....	37	4	1	2	2	2	97	1 50	50	10 00	1883	1	W. W. Martin	Clements	A. M. Kyle	Clements	
Pleasant Grove.....	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	64	1 00	50	5 00	1884	2	W. W. Martin	Clements	J. B. Moses	Wetona
Center Grove.....	5	.....	.....	6	.....	.....	22	1 50	50		1887	3	B. H. Blake	Tannehill	D. W. Morse	New Mars
Roup's Valley.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	1 00				3	J. E. Barnes	Tannehill	T. L. Shamblin	Green Pond

RECAPITULATION—Baptized, 82; Received by Letter, 22; Restored, 4; Dismissed, 37; Excluded, 7; Died, 7.
Total from Table, 660.